

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of identifying and processing a mailpiece with destination information, comprising:

determining if the mailpiece includes a code on the front of the mailpiece and if the mailpiece includes a code on the back of the mailpiece, the mailpiece also having a textual destination address on the front of the mailpiece;

sorting the mailpiece using a code on the front of the mailpiece, if it was determined that the mailpiece includes a code on the front of the mailpiece;

identifying the mailpiece using a code on the back of the mailpiece, if it was determined that the mailpiece includes a code on the back of the mailpiece only; and

processing the mailpiece in an identification code system if it was determined that the mailpiece includes neither a code on the front of the mailpiece nor a code on the back of the mailpiece, processing the mailpiece in the identification code system comprising:

applying an identification code to the back of the mailpiece,

applying a postal code to the front of the mailpiece in accordance with the destination information on the mailpiece, and

creating an identification file corresponding to the identification code,
wherein the identification file ~~may be accessed~~ is accessible by a plurality of
nodes in the identification code system.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the postal
code is a geographic coded code.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the postal
code is a bar code.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the postal
code is a POSTNET code.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the
identification code is a printed bar code.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the
identification code is an ID tag.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the identification file
includes the identification code.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the identification file further includes the postal code.

9.-76. (Canceled)

77. (Currently Amended) A method of identifying a mailpiece, comprising:

determining if the mailpiece includes a code on the front of the mailpiece and if the mailpiece includes a code on the back of the mailpiece, the mailpiece also having a textual destination address on the front of the mailpiece;

sorting the mailpiece using a code on the front of the mailpiece, if it was determined that the mailpiece includes a code on the front of the mailpiece;

identifying the mailpiece using a code on the back of the mailpiece, if it was determined that the mailpiece includes a code on the back of the mailpiece only; and

identifying the mailpiece in an identification code system if it was determined that the mailpiece includes neither a code on the front of the mailpiece nor a code on the back of the mailpiece, identifying the mailpiece in the identification code system comprises:

marking the mailpiece with an identification code on the back of the mailpiece,

marking the mailpiece with a postal code on the front of the mailpiece, and

creating an identification file corresponding to the identification code, wherein the identification file ~~may be accessed~~ is accessible by a plurality of nodes in the identification code system.

78. (Original) The method of claim 77, wherein the postal code on the front of the mailpiece is a geographic coded code.

79. (Original) The method of claim 77, wherein the postal code on the front of the mailpiece is a bar code.

80. (Original) The method of claim 77, wherein the postal code on the front of the mailpiece is a POSTNET code.

81. (Original) The method of claim 77, wherein the identification code on the back of the mailpiece is a printed bar code.

82. (Original) The method of claim 77, wherein the identification code on the back of the mailpiece is an ID tag.

83.-90. (Canceled)

91. (Currently Amended) A method of sorting a mailpiece, comprising:
determining if the mailpiece includes a code on the front of the mailpiece and if the mailpiece includes a code on the back of the mailpiece, the mailpiece also having a textual destination address on the front of the mailpiece;
sorting the mailpiece using a code on the front of the mailpiece, if it was determined that the mailpiece includes a code on the front of the mailpiece;

sorting the mailpiece using a code on the back of the mailpiece, if it was determined that the mailpiece includes a code on the back of the mailpiece only; and processing the mailpiece in an identification code system if it was determined that the mailpiece includes neither a code on the front of the mailpiece nor a code on the back of the mailpiece, processing the mailpiece in the identification code system comprising:

marking the mailpiece with an identification code on the back of the mailpiece, marking the mailpiece with a postal code on the front of the mailpiece, and creating an identification file corresponding to the identification code, wherein the identification file ~~may be accessed~~ is accessible by a plurality of nodes in the identification code system.

92. (Original) The method of claim 91, wherein the postal code on the front of the mailpiece is a geographic coded code.

93. (Original) The method of claim 91, wherein the postal code on the front of the mailpiece is a bar code.

94. (Original) The method of claim 91, wherein the postal code on the front of the mailpiece is a POSTNET code.

95. (Original) The method of claim 91, wherein the identification code on the back of the mailpiece is a printed bar code.

96. (Original) The method of claim 91, wherein the identification code on the back of the mailpiece is an ID tag.

97.-158. (Canceled)